

wherein R¹ and R³ each independently represent hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R² represents a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or -CH₂OR³; and

(c) contacting the substrate with the cosmetic composition.--

--8. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the cyclic carbonate is present in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 50% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--9. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the cyclic carbonate is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 30% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--10. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the cyclic carbonate is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 10% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--11. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein R¹ represents a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R² represents -CH₂OH.--

--12. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, and R² represents -CH₂OH.--

--13. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of skin and hair.--

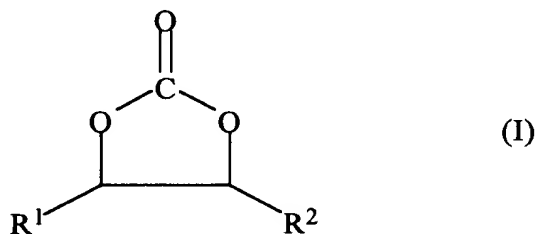
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--14. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the substrate is hair.--

--15. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the composition further comprises an additional component selected from the group consisting of oils, emulsifiers, and mixtures thereof.--

--16. (New) A method of moisturizing hair, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a hair surface to be moisturized;
- (b) providing a hair-care composition comprising a cyclic carbonate of the general formula (I):

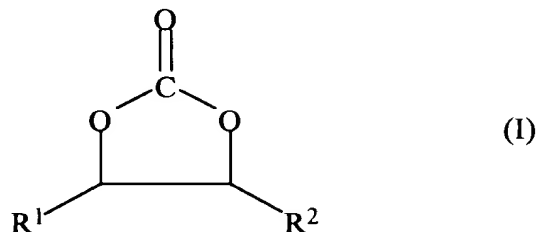


wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, and R² represents -CH₂OH, wherein the composition further comprises an additional component selected from the group consisting of oils, emulsifiers, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the cyclic carbonate is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 10% by weight based on the weight of the composition; and

- (c) contacting the hair surface with the cosmetic composition.--

--17. (New) A method of enhancing the moisturizing properties of a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a composition comprising at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical active substance;
- (b) providing a cyclic carbonate of the general formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^3 each independently represent hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R^2 represents a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or $-CH_2OR^3$; and

(c) combining the composition and the cyclic carbonate.--

--18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cyclic carbonate is combined with the composition in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 50% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cyclic carbonate is combined with the composition in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 30% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--20. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the cyclic carbonate is combined with the composition in an amount of from about 5 to about 10% by weight based on the weight of the composition.--

--21. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein R^1 represents a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R^2 represents $-CH_2OH$.--

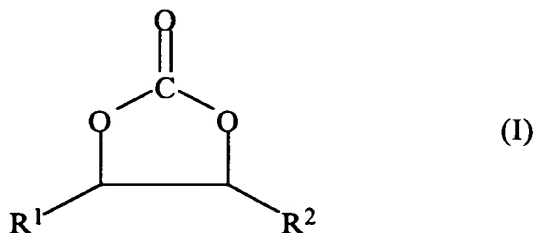
--22. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein R^1 represents hydrogen, and R^2 represents $-CH_2OH$.--

--23. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the at least one cosmetic or pharmaceutical active substance comprises a hair-care component.--

--24. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition further comprises an additional component selected from the group consisting of oils, emulsifiers, and mixtures thereof.--

--25. (New) A method of enhancing the moisturizing properties of a hair-care composition, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a hair-care composition;
- (b) providing a cyclic carbonate of the general formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents hydrogen, and R² represents -CH₂OH; and

(c) combining the composition and from about 5 to about 10% by weight of the cyclic carbonate based on the weight of the composition, wherein the composition further comprises an additional component selected from the group consisting of oils, emulsifiers, and mixtures thereof.--

Please cancel claims 1-6, without prejudice.